

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) R

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DRAFTED BY: AF/I:JAANDEREGG:PCS

APPROVED BY: AF/I:JAANDEREGG

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R 251606Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211138

CINCPAC FOR POLAD, CINCLANT FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT BLANTYRE 1244 ACTION SECSTATE DATED  
9/23/74.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, MI

SUBJ: US BASE ON DIEGT GARCIA

REF: BLANTYRE 1243

1. THE SECOND TOPIC RAISED BY PRESIDENT BANDA IN OUR TALK THIS  
MORNING WAS THE US INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA.  
HE WANTS US TO KNOW THAT HE FULLY APPROVES OF OUR INTENT AND  
CONSIDERS IT VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY THAT WE DO SO. IN  
THIS VIEW, HE SAID, HE WILL PROBABLY BE ALONE AMONG EAST AND  
CENTRAL AFRICAN LEADERS. BUT REGARDING COMMUNISM AND THE SOVIETS  
HE IS "OLD-FASHIONED." THE SOVIETS HAVE CHANGED THEIR TACTICS BUT  
THEIR ULTIMATE STRATEGIC AIM OF WORLD DOMINATION HAS NOT CHANGED  
IN HIS OPINION. HE FAVORS DETENTE BUT WITH CONSTANT WATCHFULNESS  
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AND PREPAREDNESS. IF OLD EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE HAD NOT BEEN SO

READY TO WELCOME COMMUNIST COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN HIS COUNTRY  
HE WOULDN'T BE WHERE HE IS TODAY.

2. ABOVE WAS FOLLOWED BY A 20-MINUTE INTERESTING FLASHBACK  
OF HIS YEARS IN THE U.S. WHEN, HE SAID, HE FORMED HIS STRONG  
DISLIKE FOR COMMUNISM AND HIS CONVICTION THAT CAPITALISM IS A  
BETTER SYSTEM. HE STRESSED ALSO THE OPPRESSION AND LACK OF FREEDOM  
OF THOSE UNDER COMMUNIST REGIMES AND CITED THE EXAMPLE OF BENES  
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT I WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT  
AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT MENTIONING THAT THE SUBJECT MAY  
BE BROUGHT UP AT THE UNGA. IF SO, HE SAID, WE MAY BE SURE OF  
MALAWI'S VOTE. I SAID ALSO THAT WE BELIEVE IN DETENTE WITH  
THE USSR BUT AGREE THAT THEY MUST BE WATCHED CAREFULLY. OUR  
HOPE IS THAT WITH PEACE AND TIME THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES  
MAY BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN TRADITIONAL SOVIET-COMMUNIST GOALS.  
BANDA CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH A SMILING COMMENT  
THAT HE WANTS NO PART OF THE RUSSIAN DEVIL; HE KNOWS THE BRITISH  
AND AMERICAN DEVILS WELL AND PREFERS THEM ANYTIME.  
STEVENSON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PROAMERICAN, ANTICOMMUNIST, ANTISOVIET, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE211138  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/I:JAANDEREGG:PCS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740271-0269  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740915/aaaaamav.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BLANTYRE 1243  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US BASE ON DIEGT GARCIA  
**TAGS:** MARR, IO, MI, (BANDA, H KAMUZU)  
**To:** LONDON CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005